

STATE OF MAINE
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

Docket No. 2000-402

October 26, 2000

CENTRAL MAINE POWER COMPANY
Revision to Terms and Conditions to Provide
a Charge when CMP Designs Private Line
Extensions

ORDER APPROVING
SUBSTITUTE TERMS
AND CONDITIONS

WELCH, Chairman; NUGENT and DIAMOND, Commissioners

On May 8, 2000, Central Maine Power Company (CMP) filed a proposed amendment to its terms and conditions (T&C) that would establish a price for providing engineering plans for customer-owned ("private") single-phase line extensions. Plans will be prepared by a registered professional engineer (RPE) and contain the RPE's stamp.

Customers may own a customer-owned line only if it will serve one customer. CMP T&C 7.3(A). Either a customer or an outside contractor may construct a line extension that will become a customer-owned line extension, but the line and its construction must comply with CMP's Distribution Construction Standards and Field Operating Procedures and the National Electric Safety Code.

As part of the comprehensive revisions to CMP's single-phase line extension policy that was approved on January 1, 2000 in Docket No. 99-042, CMP requires, for customer-owned extensions, that the customer or the contractor provide engineering plans prepared by and stamped by a RPE prior to construction.¹

According to the Company, some customers have been unable to find outside RPEs who were willing or able to provide line extension plans. In some cases, persons planning to construct line extensions initially asked the Company to construct the line extension; in those cases the Company provided the engineering for free, but the customers then obtained construction services from an outside firm.² Because of these

¹That requirement is part of the Distribution Construction Standards and Field Operating Procedures that apply because they are incorporated by T&C § 7.3.B.3. Those Standards and Procedures are contained in CMP's Handbook of Standard Requirements for Standard Electric Service and Meter Installation. The specific requirement for engineering plans prepared by an RPE is at section 219(B) of the Handbook.

²If a line extension is constructed by the Company, the Company itself provides the engineering plan, stamped by an RPE. The cost of such plans is included in the line extension costs that are charged on a bundled basis under the line extension terms and conditions.

problems, the Company proposed to provide engineering services and plans for a separate fee.

The Company initially proposed a charge of \$500 for 3 “points” (poles or access points to an underground line) and \$35 for each additional point. Pursuant to discussions with the Commission Staff, CMP agreed to different prices and a different pricing structure. In a replacement set of terms and conditions filed on October 20, 2000, the Company has proposed a charge of \$280 for the first point and \$60 for each additional point. The Commission Staff believes that the revised prices more accurately reflect the Company’s costs and cost structure.

The Company has also stated that it wishes to encourage a market for engineering plans for customer-owned line extensions; it does not wish to have its engineers devoting too much time to engineering plans for customer-owned line extensions. Accordingly, it has agreed to make its engineering specifications more readily available to engineers or engineering entities that will design plans for customer-owned line extensions.

The Company's complete paper specifications for line extensions are approximately three inches thick, but they include a great deal of material that is not applicable to routine single-phase line extensions. The Company has agreed that it will examine this material and determine how much of it is necessary for most single-phase line extensions. Depending on the amount of material that is necessary, the Company will offer copies of this material for a reasonable charge either on paper, on CD-ROM, on the Internet, or a combination of those formats.

Accordingly, we

ORDER

that the proposed 1st Revision by Central Maine Power Company to Terms and Conditions page 7.13 is found to be just and reasonable and is approved, effective on the date of this Order.

Dated at Augusta, Maine, this 26th day of October, 2000.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION

Dennis L. Keschl
Administrative Director

COMMISSIONERS VOTING FOR: Welch
Nugent
Diamond

NOTICE OF RIGHTS TO REVIEW OR APPEAL

5 M.R.S.A. § 9061 requires the Public Utilities Commission to give each party to an adjudicatory proceeding written notice of the party's rights to review or appeal of its decision made at the conclusion of the adjudicatory proceeding. The methods of review or appeal of PUC decisions at the conclusion of an adjudicatory proceeding are as follows:

1. Reconsideration of the Commission's Order may be requested under Section 1004 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure (65-407 C.M.R.110) within 20 days of the date of the Order by filing a petition with the Commission stating the grounds upon which reconsideration is sought.
2. Appeal of a final decision of the Commission may be taken to the Law Court by filing, within 30 days of the date of the Order, a Notice of Appeal with the Administrative Director of the Commission, pursuant to 35-A M.R.S.A. § 1320(1)-(4) and the Maine Rules of Civil Procedure, Rule 73, et seq.
3. Additional court review of constitutional issues or issues involving the justness or reasonableness of rates may be had by the filing of an appeal with the Law Court, pursuant to 35-A M.R.S.A. § 1320(5).

Note: The attachment of this Notice to a document does not indicate the Commission's view that the particular document may be subject to review or appeal. Similarly, the failure of the Commission to attach a copy of this Notice to a document does not indicate the Commission's view that the document is not subject to review or appeal.